

A: I would not contest that conclusion.

Q: So when you had to respond to the Thompson committee inquiry in September 1997 you knew that the issue had come back to haunt you, didn't you?

A: Yes.

Q: And that this time you needed to be more forthcoming, as you said earlier, with the committee than you had been with Senator McCain; is that correct?

A: Yes.

Q: And so I am I [sic] correct that you knew that you could not testify that Eckstein was a liar who had fabricated the entire account about the July 14 meeting, right?

A: Absolutely.

Q: You knew, did you not, that such an allegation wasn't true, and no [sic] incidently would only heighten the committee concern about the underlying Hudson decision; is that correct? If you walked in there and you accused Mr. Eckstein of fabricating the whole account, then, especially given his reputation in the community –

A: Oh, I would never dream of doing that. That's my bottom line.

Q: And apart from not dreaming of doing it, you had to know too what the impact of such a thing would be.

A: Yeah. Again, I'm not sure that was exactly on my mind, but sure, I had to know. Yeah.

Q: All right. And you also knew, however, didn't you, that if the committee concluded that you, Mr. Babbitt, had lied to or deliberately misled Senator McCain, it would lend credence to the argument that you were trying to conceal something truly awful about the Hudson decision.

A: Yes. Yes.